

# Los Angeles County Drug Court Program

Fourth Annual Report  
to the  
Board of Supervisors

May 16, 2001

## Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee

The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor  
Chair

The Honorable Leroy Baca, Sheriff  
Vice Chair

Robert Mimura, Executive Director

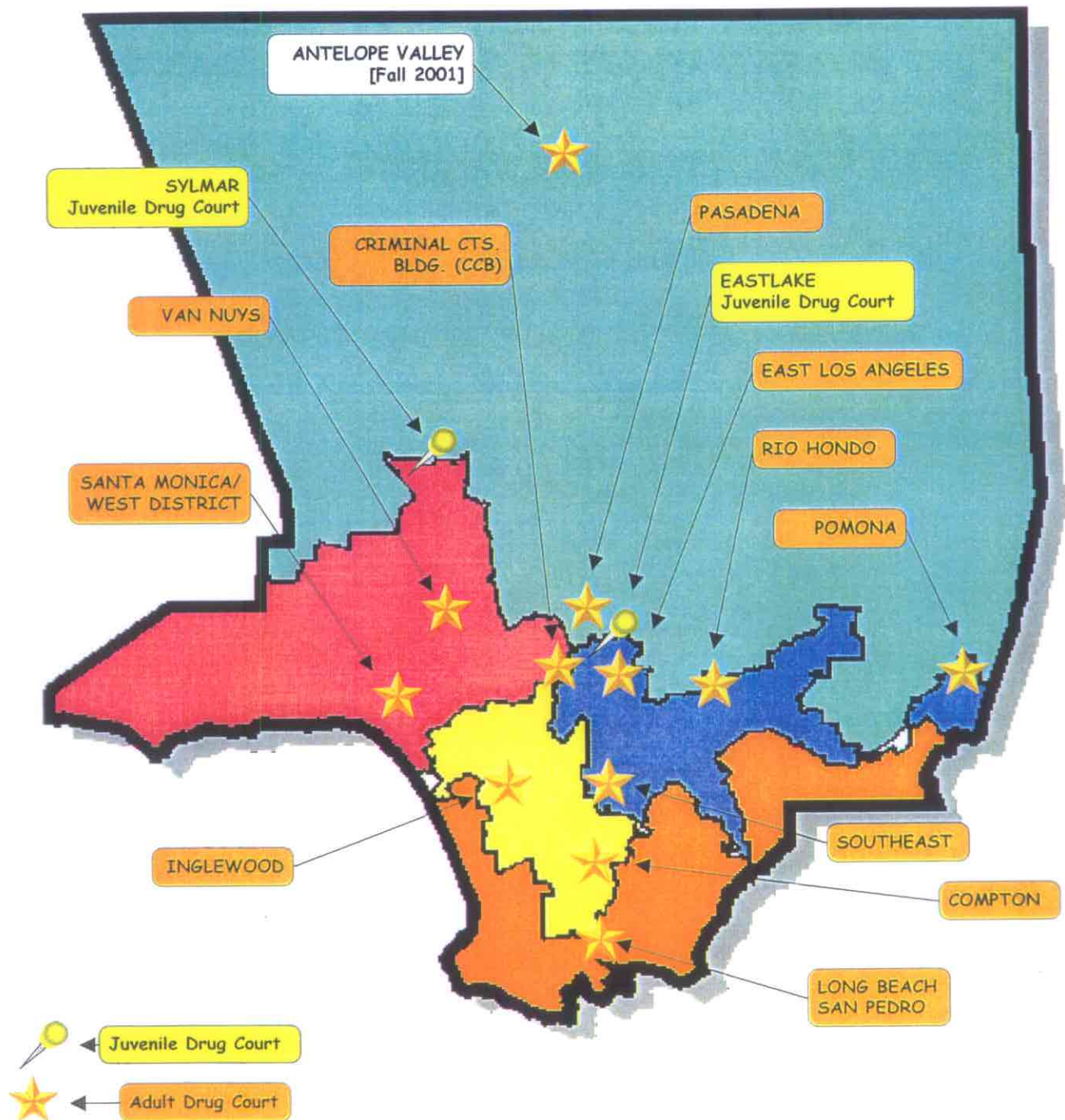
Drug Court Oversight Subcommittee  
Judge Rudolph Diaz, Chair  
Public Defender Michael P. Judge, Vice Chair

Supervising Drug Court Judge  
Judge Michael A. Tynan

Los Angeles County

# Drug Court Programs

May 2001



Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee  
Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, Chair



# The Los Angeles County Drug Court Program

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## FOREWORD

In the last year, the Drug Court Program has continued its exceptional growth and success. A steady expansion of services since the beginning in May 1994 means that the program is now poised to reach virtually every major region of the County by the end of the year. From a single pilot project at the Downtown Criminal Courts Building to a network which serves over 1,000 participants, the Drug Court program in Los Angeles County is a model of regional innovation and collaboration.

To date, over 1,300 adults have successfully completed the rigorous 12-month Drug Court Program. Almost three quarters of graduates remain arrest free. Drug Courts continue to have a remarkably high program retention rate, with over 60% of participants either graduating or remaining active program participants.

On July 1, 2001, Drug Courts will face a new challenge brought about by the passage of Proposition 36 in November 2000. This initiative mandates drug treatment in lieu of incarceration for persons convicted of specific non-violent drug offenses. The new law provides state funding for treatment, as well as offender monitoring and supervision services. Passage of Proposition 36 was, in part, affirmation of a growing belief that "treatment works" and that a comprehensive system of court-supervised programs can be a reasonable and effective alternative to incarcerating addicted criminal offenders.

Proposition 36 also poses enormous challenges. The anticipated number of qualifying offenders could be overwhelming to the courts and existing treatment delivery systems. The challenge to absorb this new population and integrate them into a larger and much broader countywide system of services and supervision will be great. Proposition 36 provides an opportunity to further integrate Drug Courts into a continuum of programs, including a variety of legal and therapeutic alternatives such as Drug Courts, mental health courts and diversion under Deferred Entry of Judgement (Penal Code Section 1000).

The next year shows great promise for expansion, along with great challenges, as Drug Courts adapt to the changing legal and treatment environment. Los Angeles County is prepared to reach the next level of innovative justice programs with the growth of our partnerships among the Courts, County agencies and treatment providers.



## **BACKGROUND**

In 1994, Los Angeles Municipal Court and the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) established the County's first Drug Court Program at the Downtown Criminal Courts Building. Within two months, a second project was implemented at the Rio Hondo Municipal Court in El Monte. These two pilot programs were not only the beginning of the Los Angeles County Drug Court Program, they were also the genesis of a movement to revolutionize the justice system response to drug addiction and crime.

Under the leadership of the Courts, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Probation Department, Alcohol and Drug Program Administration of the Department of Health Services and Board of Supervisors, Drug Courts have successfully expanded beyond the first pilot sites to 13 locations. Each of the programs is independently operated by the sponsoring court, but all participate in a collaborative planning process, share critical resources, and are now tied to a common data and case management system, known as the Drug Court Management Information System (DCMIS). The County's Drug Court Programs are recognized throughout the country for their excellence. Collectively, they represent the nation's first integrated multi-jurisdiction Drug Court system.

## **WHAT IS A DRUG COURT**

Drug Courts are unique in the criminal justice environment because they are built upon an intensive collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals. The resulting partnership has led to the development of a comprehensive and extremely structured regimen of treatment and recovery services that centers on the authority of the court and personal involvement of the Drug Court Judge. Through the creation of a non-adversarial courtroom atmosphere, the Judge heads a team of court officers, staff and treatment counselors, all working in concert to support the participant's recovery. The Drug Court Program also provides a structure of intense supervision based on frequent drug testing and court appearances. By closely monitoring participants, the court is able to actively support the recovery process and react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants cannot comply with the program. Together, the Drug Court Judge, prosecutor, defense attorney and treatment professionals maintain a critical balance of support, encouragement, supervision and authority.

**(ATTACHMENT A: *Key Elements of Drug Court*)**

## **LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRUG COURTS: 1994-2001**

Over the past seven years, the courts and CCJCC have collaborated on the development and implementation of 13 local Drug Court programs. There are currently 11 fully

operational Community Drug Court programs, with a 12th program in the Antelope Valley area scheduled for implementation in Fall 2001. With the addition of the Antelope Valley site, the Drug Court Program will have completed the basic framework for a countywide system of programs that are within reach of every community in Los Angeles County.

In addition to its Community Drug Courts, the County also has two specialized Drug Court programs that were first implemented by the Superior Court in late 1998. These programs were based on the fundamental principles and core elements of the Community Drug Court System, but restructured to meet the unique needs and legal circumstances of their respective participant populations.

## COMMUNITY DRUG COURTS

The County's system of Community Drug Court Programs is predominately of the "pre-guilty plea" diversion design which is intended to provide a treatment alternative to prosecution for non-violent felony drug offenders. However, Community Drug Courts are now evolving into multi-track program models which may include misdemeanor drug offenders and a variety of post-plea participant categories, such as probation violators and defendants who have pled guilty as a condition for admission into the program. For those who have entered guilty pleas, the entry of judgement in their case is deferred until they successfully complete the 12-month Drug Court Program. For those who fail the program, judgement on the guilty plea is entered and the case proceeds directly to the sentencing phase.

With the exception of probation violators, who are typically referred to Drug Court by the sentencing judge, all potential Drug Court participants are screened for eligibility and suitability within 48 hours of arrest and are brought before the Drug Court Judge for admission to the program. Once accepted, drug testing and intensive treatment begin immediately. In lieu of prosecution and incarceration, the participant must agree to complete a rigorous 12-month program that includes: intensive outpatient treatment, self-help groups, optional acupuncture treatment, mandatory drug testing, and numerous court appearances before the Drug Court Judge who oversees each case from beginning to end.

The participant must progress through three distinct program phases based upon strict performance and compliance requirements. **(ATTACHMENT B: Drug Court Phases)** The Drug Court Judge also utilizes a progressive range of therapeutic sanctions including short-term residential treatment in community-based programs or a specialized drug treatment facility in the County jail. Participants are required to be drug free and must successfully pass through all three distinct treatment phases before they are qualified to "graduate" from the Drug Court Program. Frequent drug testing is mandatory. The typical 12-month program subjects participants to a minimum of 125 drug tests.



Participants must also complete the required number of 12-step self help meetings, participate in individual and group counseling, pay the program fee in full, **and** be employed or enrolled in an educational/vocational program. Only then will a participant graduate and have the original charge against him or her dismissed. Drug Court participants are introduced to an ongoing process of recovery and rehabilitation based on economic self-sufficiency and total abstinence from illicit/illegal drugs and alcohol.

## **SPECIALIZED DRUG COURTS**

### **Sentenced Offender Drug Court Program**

The Sentenced Offender Drug Court (SODC) Program is an intensive program for convicted, non-violent felony offenders who face state prison commitments due to their criminal records and history of drug addiction. These higher risk offenders have medium to high levels of drug addiction and are offered the SODC program with formal probation as an alternative to state prison. The SODC program is designed for non-violent offenders, specifically excluding persons with prior convictions for serious or violent felonies or those with current charges involving serious or violent felonies or drug trafficking.

Unlike most so-called "re-entry Drug Courts" in other jurisdictions, the Superior Court's SODC program is totally integrated with both the in-custody and post-release treatment components being supervised by a single Drug Court judge and dedicated Drug Court probation officer. All SODC participants spend a mandatory 90 days in the County jail where they are assigned to a specialized drug treatment module. Following this period of intensive in-custody treatment, participants are typically admitted into community-based transitional housing while they begin a six to nine month phase of comprehensive "outpatient" treatment and intensive drug testing under the direct supervision of the Drug Court Judge and Probation Officer.

After completion of the outpatient treatment phase, the offender continues his/her recovery under intensive probation supervision but without the direct monitoring of the Drug Court Judge. Court jurisdiction and formal probation supervision continue for the full term mandated by the sentence.

### **Juvenile Drug Courts**

Incorporating the same general principles and program elements as the Adult Drug Courts, the Juvenile Drug Court targets non-violent juvenile offenders with substance abuse problems. Designed for both male and female participants, the mission of the program is to provide an integrated and comprehensive system of treatment for high risk minors and their parents within the highly structured Drug Court setting.



Juvenile Drug Court is a voluntary program which includes regular court appearances before a designated Drug Court judicial officer, intensive supervision by the Probation Department, frequent drug testing and a comprehensive program of treatment services provided by a community-based agency. Individual, group and family counseling sessions are all provided by the treatment agency. Regular attendance at 12-step meetings (i.e., Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous) is required, as is regular and verified school attendance. The involvement of the minor's parents and family members is strongly encouraged and referrals for ancillary services, such as vocational training, job placement services and remedial education, are also made when appropriate. Participants must complete a minimum of 12 months with the program, comply with all program requirements and be drug-free to be considered for graduation from Drug Court.

The County's first pilot program began operations at the Sylmar Juvenile Court facility in July 1998. Since then, the Drug Court has admitted a total of 147 participants (120 males and 27 females). There are now 65 active participants (49 males and 16 females) and a total of 22 minors (16 males and 6 females) have graduated from the program.

#### Countywide Juvenile Drug Court System

Encouraged by the early successes of the first pilot project in Sylmar and aided by an infusion of new funding from the County, the Juvenile Court continues to expand the level and scope of Drug Court programs and services. As with their adult counterparts, Juvenile Drug Courts will be developed as a countywide system of regional programs through their use of common policies, procedures and program standards. Work has also begun on development of a centralized system for program monitoring, data collection, reporting and evaluation.

The Court's strategic goal is to develop a program that will target drug-involved juveniles who are at greatest risk of becoming chronic, serious offenders. These high risk juveniles are considered the most appropriate candidates for Drug Court because of their need for an intensive and highly structured program of services, supervision and treatment-oriented sanctions.

The regional Juvenile Drug Courts will each retain substantial independence and flexibility in order to be responsive to the unique needs of the different communities that they serve. Localized programs can also be shaped to address specific problems, such as the high incidence of particular drugs of abuse, the unusual prevalence of youth gangs or linguistically isolated families. The Court's plan of action calls for a step-by-step expansion beyond the current pilot program at Sylmar over the next several years. Eastlake Juvenile Court in Central Los Angeles, the next Juvenile Drug Court site, was selected because of its potential as a regional program serving a number of communities in the surrounding area. This program is now in the pilot phase and is expected to be fully operational by Summer 2001.

The Court's Juvenile Drug Court strategic plan also calls for other enhancements such as establishment of an in-custody treatment program, expanded resources for residential treatment, and creation of a Juvenile Drug Court Data Center. The expanded residential treatment and the in-custody component are being tested as a part of the Eastlake pilot program. These services will be further expanded as the County's network of regional Juvenile Drug Court Programs grows.

#### Residential and In-custody Treatment

Currently, the Juvenile Drug Court is piloting an in-custody treatment component similar to the Sheriff's Biscailuz Recovery Center for adults. Working with the Probation Department and ADPA, the Juvenile Court is establishing a dedicated 25-bed treatment program at Eastlake Juvenile Hall. This facility will allow Juvenile Drug Court judges to use short-term confinements in a secure therapeutic facility as a treatment sanction. The Eastlake Juvenile Drug Court's community-based treatment provider will also operate the treatment component of the in-custody program.

The Court is also seeking additional resources to expand the availability of community-based residential treatment services. The expanded residential beds will serve both as a primary treatment modality for youth with serious substance abuse and delinquency problems, and a necessary "step-down" between custody treatment and community-based day or outpatient services.

#### Juvenile Drug Court Data Center

Work has also begun on the development of the Juvenile Drug Court Data Center as a subsystem module of the existing adult Drug Court Management Information System (DCMIS). The Drug Court Data Center will provide the court with a centralized database and automated management information system. The adult DCMIS will be used as the basis for the Data Center in order to benefit from the economies of a shared system architecture. Work on the Juvenile DCMIS module has been designed to ensure a totally independent and securable database with operational and administrative functions that have been expressly designed for a multi-site Juvenile Drug Court Program.

#### **DRUG COURT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (DCMIS)**

Paralleling growth and expansion of the County Drug Court Program has been the increasing need to automate the collection and management of Drug Court case information. To address this need, CCJCC's Drug Court Oversight Subcommittee, the Information Systems Advisory Body (ISAB) and the Internal Services Department joined together in a collaborative multi-agency effort to develop a countywide Drug Court computer system. This Internet/Intranet system, known as the Drug Court Management



Information System (DCMIS), was completed in March 2000 with successful linkages to the existing 11 adult Drug Court sites and treatment providers. It is believed that DCMIS may have had the distinction of being the nation's first operational Drug Court data system to utilize "WEB BROWSER" technology as the basis for inter-connecting multiple courts and treatment agencies into a single database system. The DCMIS component has now been operational for slightly over one year, during which time the system has been, and will continue to be, refined to meet the needs of the County's Drug Courts. **(ATTACHMENT C: DCMIS)**

The DCMIS data repository provides day-to-day operational support to the County's Drug Courts and serves as a centralized source for statistical information that monitors and evaluates court-level as well as countywide program outcomes and trends. The primary operational support processes of the system center on participant identification and tracking information and fall into three major categories: (1) Eligibility/Suitability; (2) Treatment; and (3) Court Monitoring. The administrative processes of DCMIS fall into two major categories: (1) Statistical Reports; and (2) L.A. County Drug Court Program Home Page.

DCMIS is an Internet/Intranet database application, which selectively permits access to the data by a variety of system users. However, to guarantee confidentiality, all DCMIS users are registered and assigned specific data access privileges. This classification system ensures that access to protected treatment or criminal justice information is restricted to specific groups of authorized DCMIS users. Only DCMIS/CCJCC system administrators have access to the entire DCMIS database.

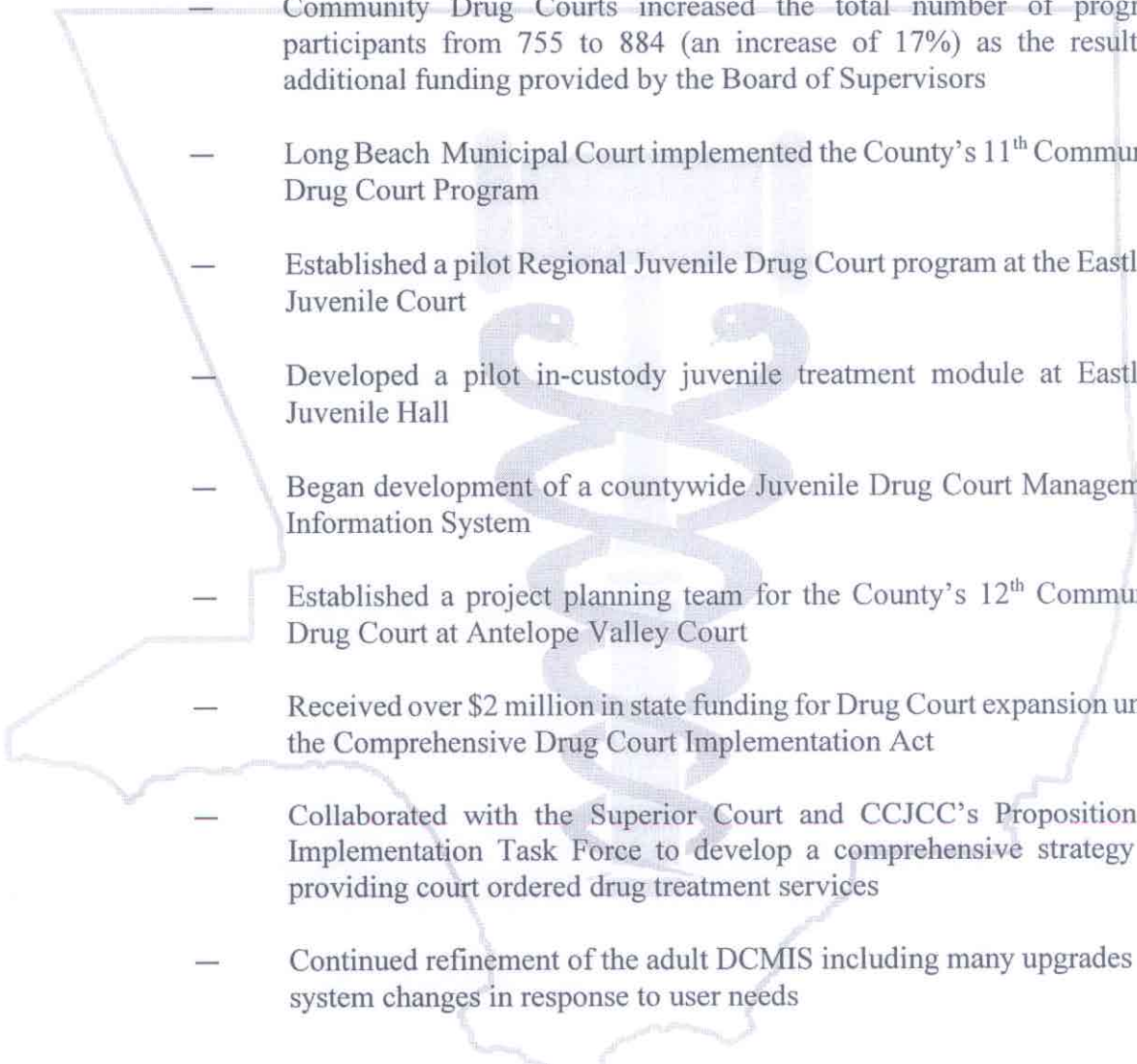
To ensure the integrity of the system, there are three distinct levels of security. At the first level, Internet access by community-based Drug Court treatment agencies to the County's "Intranet" (known as LANET) is controlled by the use of electronic SECURID cards which limit access to registered treatment personnel. The second level of security limits access to the DCMIS application to registered users with passwords and Personal Identification Numbers (PINs). And, at the third level, access to the data itself is controlled by restricting the access rights of specific groups of DCMIS users. **(ATTACHMENT D: DCMIS Security Levels)**

#### Shared System Architecture Strategy

The success of the DCMIS platform in linking multiple private treatment and government agencies with many locations to a centralized database for reporting and tracking purposes will set the stage for many other therapeutic justice innovations in the coming months and years. The Juvenile Drug Court Data Center is being developed now on the DCMIS model. The implementation on July 1, 2001, of Proposition 36 will provide the next testing ground for this platform to establish a multi-agency database to manage complex information and reporting linkages among the court, probation and treatment. Future

areas for expansion could include other therapeutic justice court models such as Community Courts and Homeless Courts. Investment in the development of DCMIS has placed Los Angeles County in the forefront of data collection not only in the state, but also in the country.

### **DRUG COURT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2000-2001**

- 
- Community Drug Courts increased the total number of program participants from 755 to 884 (an increase of 17%) as the result of additional funding provided by the Board of Supervisors
  - Long Beach Municipal Court implemented the County's 11<sup>th</sup> Community Drug Court Program
  - Established a pilot Regional Juvenile Drug Court program at the Eastlake Juvenile Court
  - Developed a pilot in-custody juvenile treatment module at Eastlake Juvenile Hall
  - Began development of a countywide Juvenile Drug Court Management Information System
  - Established a project planning team for the County's 12<sup>th</sup> Community Drug Court at Antelope Valley Court
  - Received over \$2 million in state funding for Drug Court expansion under the Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation Act
  - Collaborated with the Superior Court and CCJCC's Proposition 36 Implementation Task Force to develop a comprehensive strategy for providing court ordered drug treatment services
  - Continued refinement of the adult DCMIS including many upgrades and system changes in response to user needs

### **DRUG COURT SUCCESS**

The CCJCC has been responsible for overseeing an ongoing countywide program for monitoring and evaluating Drug Court programs since the inception of the first project in May 1994. As the most critical part of this process, the Probation Department's Pretrial



Services now conducts thorough analysis of criminal history records for all Drug Court graduates on a quarterly basis to track recidivism trend data. In addition to maintaining recidivism data and on-going Drug Court workloads, the Committee has also collaborated with universities and independent researchers to conduct periodic studies which focus on specific aspects of Drug Court processes and program outcomes. For example, the Downtown Drug Court at the Criminal Courts Building has been selected by the Administrative Office of the Courts to be evaluated in the first phase of a three part cost/benefit analysis of Drug Courts in the state.

### Demographics

The Drug Court client population continues to reflect the diversity of the population in Los Angeles County. As of March 31, 2001, the total number of active participants in the County's Community Drug Court program reached 884 participants. Of this number, 72.5% were males and 27.5% were females, with an average age of 35 years. For more information on age ranges, see **ATTACHMENT E: *Distribution by Age***. Across all programs, the Drug Courts are 41.7% Latino, 28.6% White and 23.9% African-American (see **ATTACHMENT E: *Distribution by Ethnicity***). The cumulative total of Community Drug Court graduates was 1,325. For further detail on individual programs, see **ATTACHMENT F: *Los Angeles County Drug Court Programs***.

### Retention Rates

As more Community Drug Courts have opened and each court has gained experience in handling the drug-addicted offender population, retention rates and time in treatment has increased, even for those who do not complete the program. The Center for Applied Local (CAL) Research published a study last year of the first four Drug Courts in the County which showed that even clients who drop out of the program are rearrested less often than offenders charged with similar offenses who were not in a Drug Court program. Other addiction researchers have reached similar conclusions. The average time in the program for all clients (both graduates and non-graduates) is now 244 days, up from 130 days in 1995. A longer stay in treatment, even for non-graduates, will improve the chances for recovery. The retention rate for clients entering the program in 1999 was 63.5%, meaning that 63.5% of the clients admitted to the program either graduated or are still active.

Following are statistical highlights from Probation Pretrial Services data.

### **Recidivism Report, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, FY 2000-01** (Probation Pretrial Services) **(ATTACHMENT G: *Drug Court Recidivism*)**

- ◆ As of March 31, 2001, there were 1,386 graduates from the adult Drug Courts, including the SODC Program. Of this number:

1,030 (74.3%) Had NOT been arrested for ANY offense since graduation

356 (25.7%) Had been rearrested for some offense since graduation  
(Including minor Vehicle Code violations and cases which  
were shown as dismissals or D.A. rejects)

- ◆ Of the 356 arrests recorded, 96 (27%) involved Vehicle Code violations. Significantly, only 28 of these Vehicle Code arrests (29%) involved charges related to alcohol and/or drugs.

### PROPOSITION 36 AND THE FUTURE OF DRUG COURTS

On November 7, 2000, the voters of the State of California passed Proposition 36, which amended existing drug sentencing laws to require criminal defendants who are convicted of a non-violent drug offense to be placed in drug treatment as a condition of probation instead of incarceration. Proposition 36 also applies to state parolees who are convicted of new non-violent drug offenses or who commit drug related parole violations. Although many Drug Court supporters across the state initially believed that Proposition 36 would eradicate the need for Drug Courts, Drug Courts will remain a critical component in the County's strategy to treat addicted criminal offenders. In fact, the experience Los Angeles County has had with Drug Courts provided a great deal of information and assistance in the development of the initial Proposition 36 Implementation Plan.

Proposition 36 makes significant changes to the way many drug defendants will be handled by the criminal justice and treatment delivery systems after July 1, 2001. Most non-violent drug offenders who are convicted of possession or under-the-influence offenses will receive treatment in the community in lieu of incarceration. While Drug Courts have served a portion of these offenders in the past, this represents a significant shift in the handling of this population and provides an opportunity for both the treatment delivery system and the criminal justice system to move toward a more holistic approach of handling substance abusing offenders. The lessons learned in Los Angeles County from the traditional Drug Courts show that offenders must be held accountable for their actions. Lack of incarceration as a sanction under Proposition 36 will require creative innovations to motivate a generally recalcitrant population into and through recovery.

To cover local costs for treatment programs and other necessary services, Proposition 36 appropriated statewide funding of \$120 million per year through FY 2005-2006, with an initial FY 2000-2001 appropriation of \$60 million to allow for additional costs for planning and implementation. This funding is widely believed to be inadequate to cover the level of treatment and supervision that has been shown to be effective under the Drug Court Program.



In order to be successful, the implementation of Proposition 36 requires a coordinated and collaborative strategy among the Court, Probation Department, Health Services Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) and community-based treatment providers in the county. To that end, on November 15, 2000, the CCJCC voted to establish a Proposition 36 Implementation Task Force, comprised of representatives from the Superior Court and many County Departments including Probation, ADPA, Chief Administrative Office (CAO), County Counsel, District Attorney, Public Defender and other County entities, as well as other affected agencies in the County such as City Attorneys and Treatment Provider Coalitions. This Task Force is the official advisory group responsible for developing policies and procedures for the coordinated implementation of Proposition 36 in Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County is committed to successfully implementing Proposition 36 while preserving accountability, flexibility, quality treatment, appropriate supervision and public safety in the county. Proposition 36 represents a major restructuring of the treatment delivery and criminal justice systems and the County's initial Implementation Plan developed by the Task Force is the product of a collaborative effort involving the courts, criminal justice, health and human service agencies and the community-based drug treatment providers. Planning for Proposition 36 was greatly facilitated by the existence of strong collaborative partnerships developed over the years by the Drug Court program.

Treatment services under Proposition 36 will consist of a three-level system increasing in duration and intensity depending on the assessed severity of the offender. Minimum duration is three months for lowest levels of severity, six months for mid-level severity, and nine months for the most severe level. Contracted Community Assessment and Service Centers (CASCs) will conduct individual assessments for each eligible offender at 11 sites located throughout the County. The Addiction Severity Index, a nationally recognized substance abuse assessment instrument, will be used to help determine placement in an initial level of treatment intensity. The level of treatment services for an individual will be dependent on the severity of addiction coupled with his or her criminal history risk assessment. Those who have a low level of severity will receive outpatient services (including a combination of individual, family and group counseling sessions), self-help group meetings, and assistance with ancillary needs such as literacy training, vocational guidance, mental health services, health services and transitional housing. Those participants who are assessed at mid- and high-severity levels will receive more intensive services, such as day treatment, residential detoxification, residential treatment, and narcotic replacement therapy, as indicated, in addition to the range of services provided to the low level addicts. The monitoring judge, in consultation with the treatment provider and assigned probation officer, maintains flexibility to adjust an individual's treatment plan based on compliance or non-compliance with his or her conditions of probation.

It is anticipated that many first time narcotics offenders will opt to participate in the



education-based drug diversion programs (under Penal Code 1000) rather than the Proposition 36 treatment-based program. Highly addicted offenders are anticipated to quickly fall out of compliance with the Proposition 36 treatment program and accept the stricter requirements of Drug Court (assuming they are eligible under current Drug Court admission criteria), rather than incarceration. In addition, some offenders may opt to go immediately into the more rigorous Drug Court program because they believe it will offer them the greatest chance for a successful recovery.

The increased number of offenders in treatment being monitored by the court and probation, as well as the addition of new progress reporting and probation violation procedures, will necessitate a very rapid flow of quality information among all agencies involved in the implementation of Proposition 36. Specialized monitoring courts will be following offenders' progress and will require a greater level of detailed information about each probationer, such as behavior in treatment, drug testing results and attendance at self-help meetings, than traditionally has been collected and reported to the Court, except in Drug Court.

A sophisticated information collection, sharing and transmission system will be developed to remove the need for duplicate data entry, and to permit the Court and Probation to prepare and receive detailed reports quickly and make changes in the offender's treatment plan or hold a probation violation hearing. Workload information will be a key factor in the successful implementation of Proposition 36. Statistical information, such as the number of offenders in the system, the number of offenders who do not show up at a Community Assessment Service Center after being referred for treatment, the number of participants successfully completing the program, and the number of offenders dropping out before program completion, as well as other information will be tracked to apportion resources and make corrections as needed. A data system is a critical element as the Proposition 36 Task Force continues to refine the implementation plan.

Funding under Proposition 36 lasts until FY2005-2006. After 2006, the State or the voters must appropriate continued funding for treatment and supervision services. To ensure future funding for mandated Proposition 36 programs, Los Angeles County must collect data on an ongoing basis in order to show the effectiveness of Proposition 36 implementation in the county, treatment outcomes, and resulting changes, if any, in the criminal justice system.

The actual behavior of the whole system will be determined by many variables and the treatment delivery and justice systems must remain poised to adapt to the reality of what happens after July 1, 2001. The Proposition 36 Implementation Plan will evolve to meet the changing treatment and supervision needs in the county, within the framework of a balanced and reasoned approach to the allocation of scarce resources. How Proposition 36 will affect the Community Drug Courts in Los Angeles County will be determined as the Proposition is fully implemented over the next year.



## INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

In order to succeed, the Drug Court Program must have a broad and ongoing base of support. The program continues to rely on a coalition of agencies, organizations and elected leaders. Under the general auspices of the CCJCC's Drug Court Oversight Subcommittee, this coalition includes the judicial officers and administrators of the unified Los Angeles Superior Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Probation Department, Alcohol and Drug Program Administration of the Department of Health Services, and local law enforcement agencies. **(ATTACHMENT H: Drug Court Program Organization Chart)** To provide additional leadership and coordination, the unified Superior Court has also designated a Supervising Drug Court Judge. The Subcommittee provides programmatic and technical assistance, coordinates countywide data collection and program evaluation activities, and facilitates consensus on countywide policies and program standards. The Subcommittee is responsible for collaboratively developing general policy guidelines for all of the County's Community Drug Courts, which are published in *The Drug Court Standards and Practices*. This policy document undergoes revisions as the Drug Court program evolves. The fifth edition of *The Drug Court Standards and Practices* will be released once the changes from Proposition 36 are clarified.

## THE FUTURE

Building on seven years of collaboration, CCJCC and the unified Superior Court will continue their partnership in expanding the County's system of Drug Court programs. In the coming year, in addition to the changes that will be felt from the implementation of Proposition 36, we will see major developments in the area of Juvenile Drug Courts as the second project site at the Eastlake Juvenile Court and the In-custody Drug Court treatment facility are officially opened. New initiatives for the development of enhanced or specialized Drug Court services, such as those involving further partnerships with the Dependency Court System, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Mental Health, will also be explored. It is anticipated that there will be a continued increase in the level of Drug Court participation in conjunction with the integration of Proposition 36 programs into the treatment system. Drug Courts and Proposition 36 programs will work together as part of the continuum of care in Los Angeles County to assist drug offenders to break the cycle of drugs and crime, while still preserving public safety and accountability.



# APPENDIX



# KEY ELEMENTS OF DRUG COURT

Los Angeles County Drug Court Program  
Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee

May 2001





# Drug Court Phases

Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee - Los Angeles County

**Arrest**

Screening / Eligibility  
1st Court Hearing  
48 HOURS

## Two Week Trial Phase

Mandatory drug tests: 6 / week  
Mandatory 12-step mtgs: 6 / week  
Mandatory counseling sessions: 6 / week

Reasonable  
Cooperation w/Drug  
Tests and Counseling  
sessions

YES

## PHASE ONE

### Assessment, Stabilization & Treatment

Frequent counseling sessions  
Mandatory 12-step meetings: 6 / week  
Mandatory drug tests: 5 / week

No positive drug tests  
30 consecutive days

Employed or positive  
response to  
vocational or  
educational goals

Demonstrated  
positive adjustment to  
treatment

YES

## PHASE TWO

### Intensive Treatment

Continued Counseling - long term recovery / socialization  
Mandatory 12-step meetings: 6 / week  
Mandatory drug tests: 3 - 5 / week

No positive drug tests  
60 consecutive days

No unexcused  
absences from  
scheduled services  
for 30 consecutive  
days

Employed or positive  
response to  
vocational or  
educational goals

Demonstrated  
positive adjustment to  
treatment

YES

## PHASE THREE

### Transition

Continued Counseling - self-sufficiency / socialization  
Mandatory 12-step meetings: 5 - 6 / week  
Mandatory drug tests: 2-3 / week

No positive drug tests  
90 consecutive days

No unexcused  
absences from  
scheduled services  
for 60 consecutive  
days

Employed or enrolled  
in vocational or  
educational program

YES

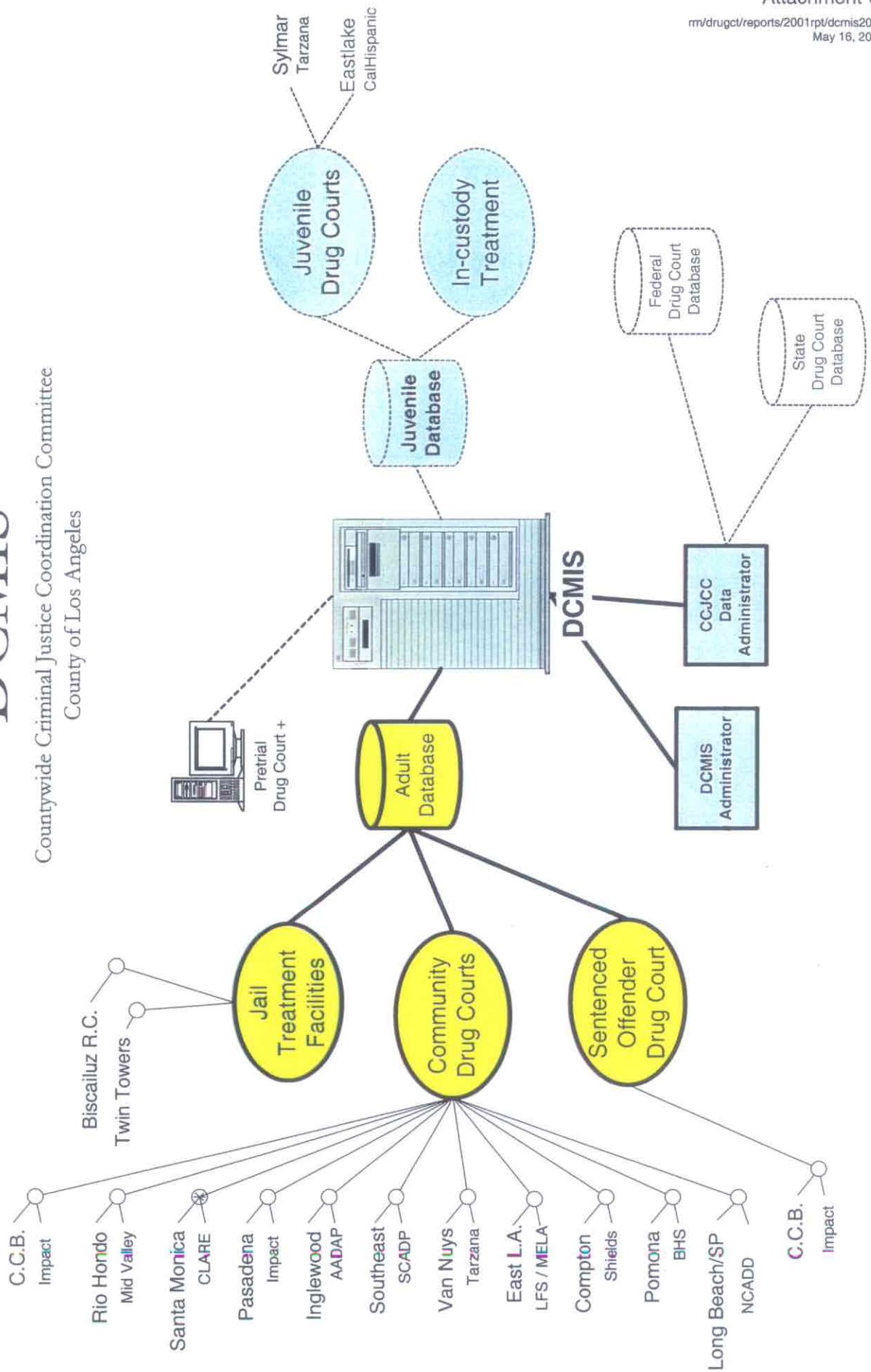
**GRADUATION**



# Drug Court Management Information System

## DCMIS

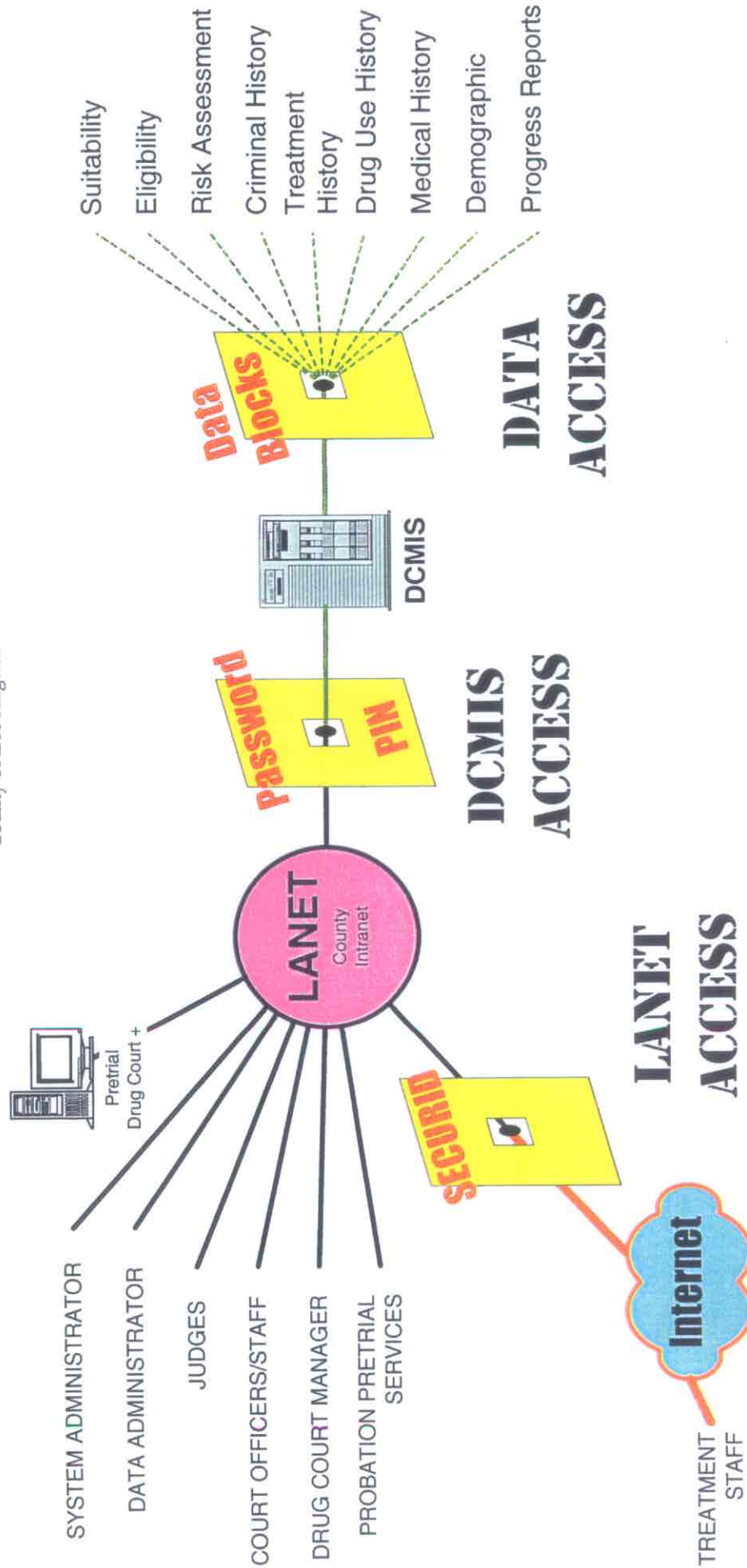
Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee  
County of Los Angeles



# DCMIS SECURITY LEVELS

## Drug Court Management Information System

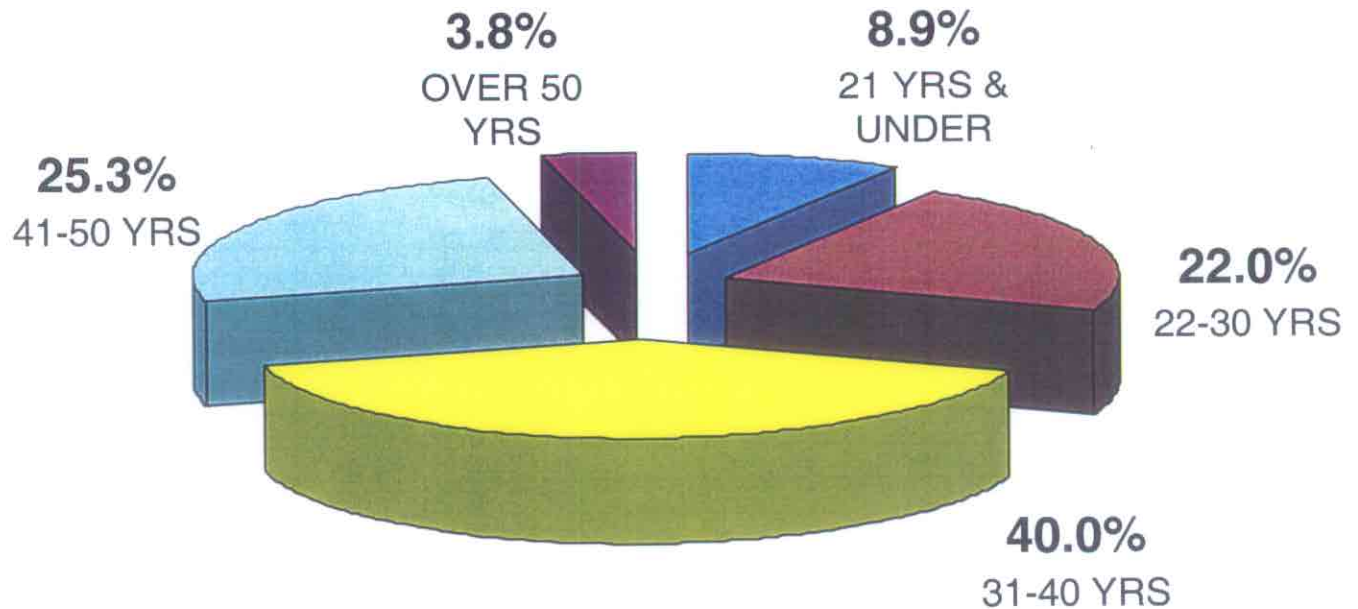
Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee  
County of Los Angeles



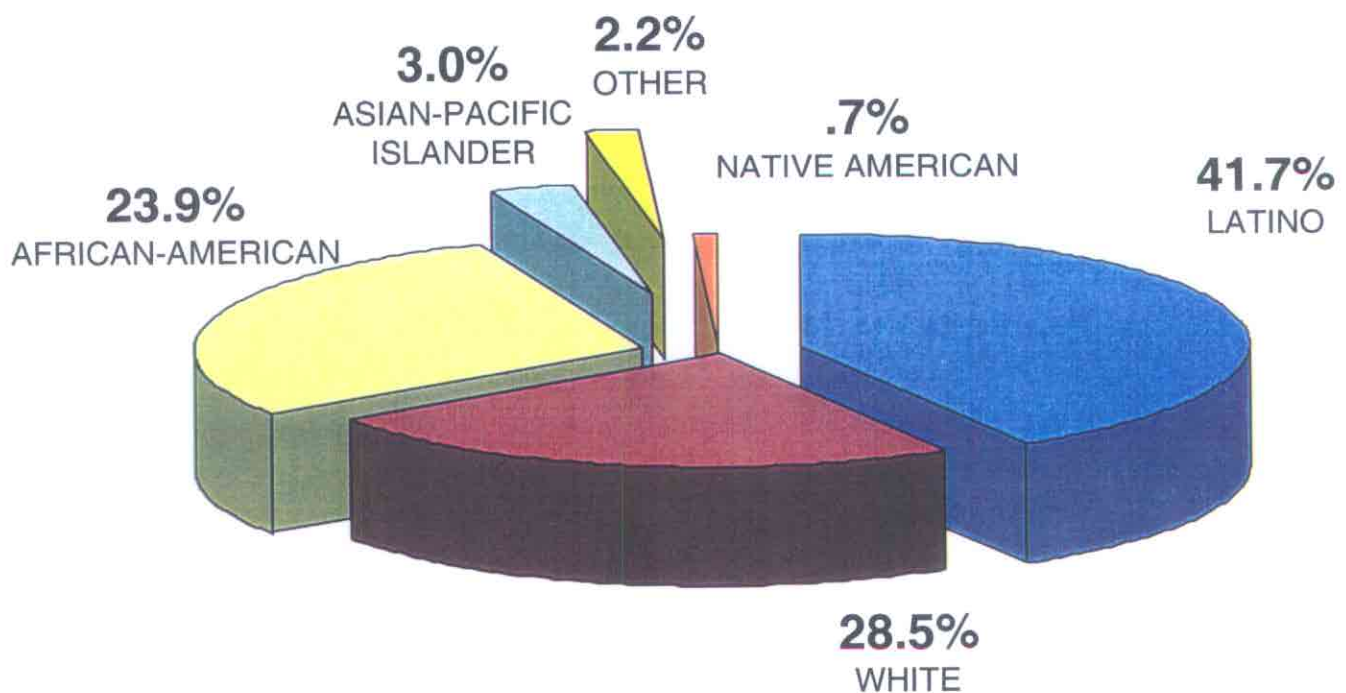


# Drug Court Participant Profile

April 2001



## DISTRIBUTION BY AGE



## DISTRIBUTION BY ETHNICITY

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRUG COURT PROGRAMS

Report Date: April 1, 2001

COMMUNITY DRUG COURTS						
	Start Date	Years/Mos. in Operation	Current Participants	% Male	% Female	Graduates to Date
Compton	Apr-98	3 yr.	69	78.3%	21.7%	64
East Los Angeles	May-98	2 yr., 11 mos.	45	62.2%	37.8%	47
Inglewood	Apr-97	4 yr.	111	60.4%	39.6%	90
Los Angeles	May-94	6 yr., 11 mo.	177	79.7%	20.3%	516
Van Nuys	Jun-97	3 yr., 10 mo.	98	67.3%	32.7%	88
Pasadena	May-95	5 yr., 11 mos.	40	72.5%	27.5%	84
Rio Hondo	Jul-94	6 yr., 9 mos.	173	75.7%	24.3%	213
Santa Monica/West	Jan-96	5 yr., 3 mos.	61	68.9%	31.1%	133
Southeast	May-97	3 yr., 11 mo.	50	88.0%	12.0%	64
Pomona	Jun-99	1 yr., 10 mo.,	25	68.0%	32.0%	26
Long Bch/San Pedro	Jul-00	9 mos.	35	77.0%	23.0%	0
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>884</b>	<b>72.5%</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>1325</b>

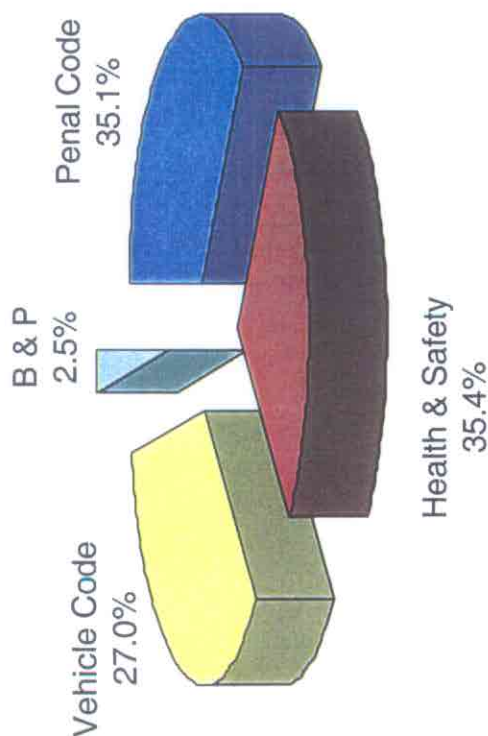
SPECIALIZED DRUG COURTS						
	Start Date	Years/Mos. in Operation	Current Participants	% Male	% Female	Graduates to Date
Sentenced Offender	Aug-98	2 yr., 9 mos.	122	82.0%	18.0%	47
Juvenile, Sylmar	Jul-98	2 yr., 10 mos.	54	75.9%	24.1%	22



# Drug Court Recidivism

All Adult Program Graduates

June 1995 - March 2001



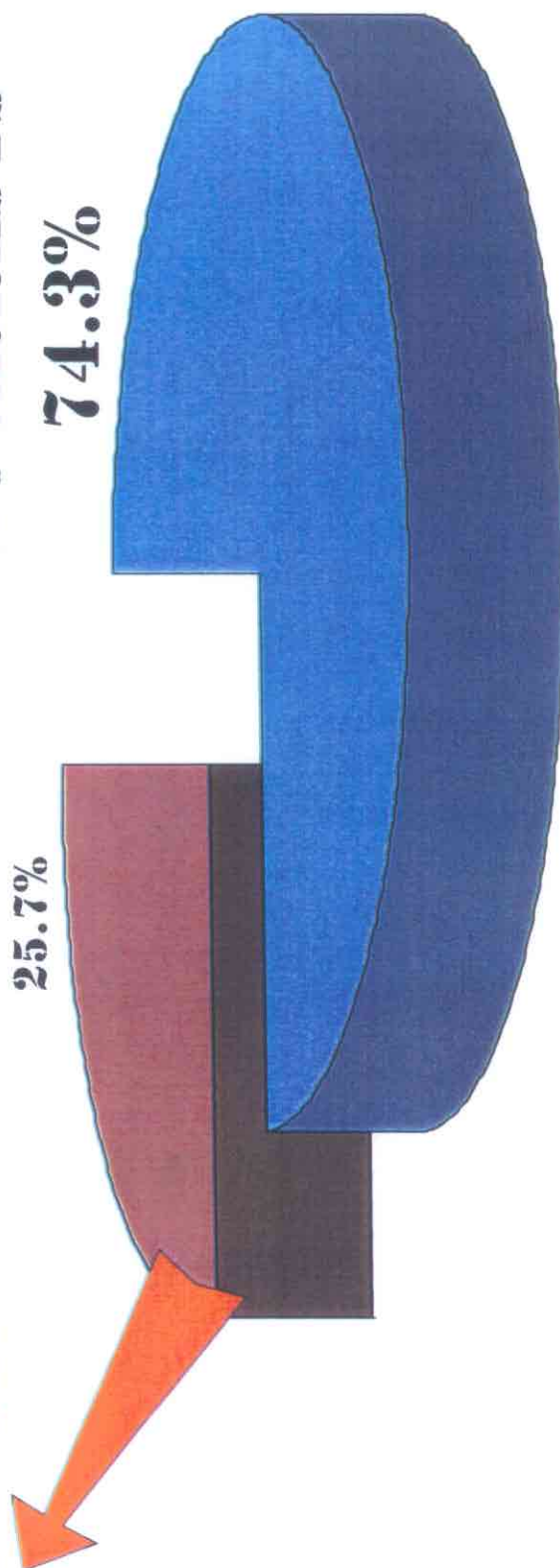
**Re-arrest Breakdown**

**ARRESTS**

25.7%

**NO ARRESTS**

74.3%





## Board of Supervisors

Countywide Criminal Justice  
Coordination Committee  
(CCJCC)

Drug Court  
Oversight  
Subcommittee

